GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7238
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
REDUCTION IN BELOW POVERTY LINE FAMILIES
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any representation with regard to the National Sample Survey conducted by the Union Government regarding BPL families;

(b) whether the survey has reduced the number of BPL families who were getting the benefits for the last several years;

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering to restore the prior position in this regard;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Planning Commission estimates the number and the proportion of the poor in the country based on the quinquennial Consumption Expenditure Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The poverty estimates brought out by the Planning Commission indicated that in Kerala the poverty ratio in rural areas had declined from 25.76% in 1993-94 to 9.38% in 1999-2000. The State Government of Kerala has requested the Ministry of Rural Development to review the limit imposed on the total number of BPL households to be identified under the guidelines of BPL Census, 2002. The representations of various States in this regard have already been considered by the Ministry and the States have been given enough flexibility to decide the total number of BPL households which may be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 by the Planning Commission or the Adjusted Share whichever is higher. In addition, 10% flexibility has been granted on account of transient poor. With this modification, the number of BPL families in the rural areas in Kerala will be almost same as that getting benefits for the last several years.